

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 13, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 103

Introduced by Senator Berryhill

~~(Coauthor: Senator)~~ *Coauthors: Senators Blakeslee, Cannella, Dutton,
Harman, Huff, and Runner)*

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Galgiani, Garrick, Gordon, Hagman,
Huffman, Jeffries, and Mansoor)*

August 6, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103—Relative to wildlife resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 103, as amended, Berryhill. Wildlife resources: federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

This measure would acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and recognize, among others, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for its leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources throughout the nation.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than a century ago, hunters and anglers were
- 2 among the first conservationists who realized America's fish and
- 3 wildlife resources and their habitats were in peril and could not
- 4 sustain unregulated harvest and further habitat destruction; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Hunters and anglers took it upon themselves to
- 6 support laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife,
- 7 established game and fish agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and
- 8 their habitats, and supported special fishing and hunting license

1 fees to help fund the new agencies' efforts to provide for healthy
2 natural resources for future generations; and

3 WHEREAS, The State of California then and now recognizes
4 that the primary authority to protect and manage fish and resident
5 wildlife within the state's borders resides in the state fish and
6 wildlife agencies; and

7 WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were
8 insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife
9 populations, hunters and anglers supported excise taxes on firearms,
10 ammunition, archery equipment, hunting equipment, and fishing
11 equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and
12 enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

13 WHEREAS, These efforts became known as the federal Wildlife
14 and Sport Fish Restoration Program that began 75 years ago with
15 the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937,
16 and then in 1950, was bolstered with the passage of the Federal
17 Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, which was further expanded
18 with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration
19 Act in 1984; and

20 WHEREAS, The passage of each federal act was predicated on
21 the knowledge that hunters and anglers have a vested interest in
22 the conservation of fish and wildlife and in the healthy
23 sustainability of wildlife habitats; and

24 WHEREAS, The combined contribution of the federal Wildlife
25 and Sport Fish Restoration Program to state fish and wildlife
26 agencies exceeds \$13 billion since 1939, more than any other single
27 conservation effort in American history; and

28 WHEREAS, The funds raised under the federal Wildlife and
29 Sport Fish Restoration Program have helped conserve our fish and
30 wildlife resources and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation
31 for more than half a century. These investments, which help create
32 jobs while protecting California's natural treasures, are particularly
33 important in these tough economic times; and

34 WHEREAS, The cooperative partnership among industry,
35 hunters, anglers, boaters, recreational shooters, hunting and fishing
36 organizations, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and
37 California's Department of Fish and Game has resulted in a
38 successful model of fish and wildlife management that includes
39 the conservation of land, wildlife, fish, and better opportunities

1 for hunters, fishermen, and others to enjoy California's fish and
2 wildlife resources; and

3 WHEREAS, In California, the Federal Aid in Wildlife
4 Restoration Act of 1937, as amended, has been a stable source of
5 funding that has been instrumental in the efforts to reestablish elk
6 in suitable habitat that has resulted in a statewide population of
7 about 3,900 Tule elk in 21 separate herds throughout California;
8 the annual Central Valley Angler Survey, funded by \$1,120,000
9 from the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program,
10 which leads to scientifically set harvest quotas, ensuring the
11 conservation of salmon while supporting the \$167,000,000
12 economic contribution from the annual salmon fishery enjoyed by
13 500,000 anglers; and

14 WHEREAS, Successful wildlife restoration projects in California
15 have included the protection and maintenance of over 285,000
16 acres of wildlife areas with the annual support of \$9,000,000 from
17 the federal Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, as amended, that
18 create public access for hunting and fishing and for wildlife
19 surveillance and reporting; and

20 WHEREAS, The annual support from the federal Wildlife and
21 Sport Fish Restoration Program in California has provided the
22 foundation for conservation over 75 years. These investments have
23 proven to be the example of conservation in the great State of
24 California and have directly resulted in the increased awareness
25 of conservation needs; and

26 ~~WHEREAS, The habitat stewardship hunters and anglers~~
27 ~~promote on their own lands and waters, combined with the annual~~
28 ~~funding generated by hunting and fishing, and the actions of the~~
29 ~~conservation organizations have become the cornerstone of our~~
30 ~~nation's fish and wildlife conservation model~~ *Habitat stewardship*
31 *and the actions of conservation organizations combined with the*
32 *annual funding generated by hunting and fishing have become the*
33 *cornerstone of our nation's fish and wildlife conservation model;*
34 now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California
37 acknowledges the 75th anniversary of the federal Wildlife and
38 Sport Fish Restoration Program and recognizes the many hunters,
39 anglers, boaters, recreational shooters, as well as; state fish and
40 wildlife agencies; and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1 for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish,
2 wildlife, and other natural resources, both game and nongame, to
3 the abundance we see today; and

4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the Director of Fish and Game, the Secretary of
6 the Natural Resources Agency, and to the author for distribution,
7 so that all may know and appreciate the foresight and contributions
8 from anglers, hunters, recreational shooters, industry, state fish
9 and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife
10 Service on behalf of our nation's natural resources.